

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An automatic index making system for
an electronic catalog, comprising:

an object input section configured to enter
5 an image object which enables generation of at least
two or more different images by setting a virtual view
point to read an image;

a generated image specification section configured
to output specified information;

10 a two-dimensional image generation section
configured to electronically analyze the image object
entered by the object input section, based on the
specified information from the generated image
specification section to generate a two-dimensional
15 image;

an index data creation section configured to
create index data by use of the two-dimensional image
generated by the two-dimensional image generation
section; and

20 an index output section configured to output
an index by use of the index data created by the index
data creation section.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
the specified information includes presence information
25 of one of an object in the image object and a part of
the object.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the specified information includes whether or not an object in the image object is a preset spatial posture.

4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the spatial posture includes at least one of a front,
5 an upper surface, a side face and a perspective surface of the object.

5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the specified information includes illumination information of the image object.

10 6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the object has character information, and the specified information includes interpretation easiness of the character.

7. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
15 the two-dimensional image generation section includes a function of synthesizing a background.

8. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the two-dimensional image generation section generates at least two or more different two-
20 dimensional images for one of the image objects, and the index data creation section extracts one of the different two-dimensional images to use it as index data.

9. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
25 the two-dimensional image generation section generates at least two or more different two-dimensional images for one of the image objects, and

the index data creation section creates index data corresponding to the at least two or more different two-dimensional images for one of the image objects.

10 10. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein at least one display image size is different among the two-dimensional images in the index data.

10 11. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the two-dimensional image generation section includes a function of correcting data of at least one of the image object and a copy of the image object based on a result of electronically analyzing the image object.

15 12. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image object is a three-dimensional image, and a target of the correction includes at least one of a spatial origin coordinate of the image object, inclination of a spatial coordinate axis, a luminance value, a color, a coefficient of reflection, a light emission coefficient of the object, the number of polygons, an initial spatial position, and illumination conditions of the object.

20 13. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the index output section further includes a function of electronically searching an image object similar to the image object.

25 14. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the index output section searches the similar image object by using a characteristic amount of the two-dimensional

image generated at the two-dimensional image generation section.

15 15. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the index output section includes a function of outputting the index as a paper medium.

10 16. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the two-dimensional image generation section uses a recognition algorithm to recognize specific characteristics in the image object to electronically analyze the image object entered by the object input section.

15 17. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the two-dimensional image generation section uses an algorithm to read and analyze information added to the image object entered by the object input section to electronically analyze the image object.

18. An automatic index making method for an electronic catalog, comprising:

20 entering an image object which enables generation of at least two or more different images by setting a virtual view point to read an image;

outputting specified information;

electronically analyzing the entered image object based on the specified information to generate a two-dimensional image;

25 creating index data by using the generated two-dimensional image; and

outputting an index by using the created index

data.

19. An automatic index making system for
an electronic catalog, comprising:

5 object input means for entering an image object
which enables generation of at least two or more
different images by setting a virtual view point to
read an image;

generated image specification means for outputting
specified information;

10 two-dimensional image generation means for
electronically analyzing the image object entered by
the object input means, based on the specified
information from the generated image specification
means to generate a two-dimensional image;

15 index data creation means for creating index data
by use of the two-dimensional image generated by the
two-dimensional image generation means; and

index output means for outputting an index by use
of the index data created by the index data creation
20 means.